

Abstract of the Disclosure

A composition for forming a protective coating over the surface of an assay substrate having an indicating agent capable of generating a detectable signal associated therewith, includes a protective coating forming material, and a delivery system for delivering the protective coating forming material in an amount sufficient to coat the surface of the assay substrate, wherein the delivery system evaporates from the surface of the assay substrate to form a protective coating at least substantially composed of the protective coating forming material that is at least substantially transparent to the detectable signal generated by the indicating agent. The present invention is further directed to a method for forming the protective coating over the surface of the assay substrate, and a substrate produced by such method.